

Closures needed for restoration of Te Uru Karaka historical grove on Mauao

Toku maunga, tō maunga. My mountain is your mountain.

Regular users of Mauao can expect to see some changes happening to the maunga at the end of this month.

Unknown to many, the Te Ara Motukauri track (4WD track) was once home to early tangata whenua. This site, situated on the Pilot Bay side of Mauao, is called Te Uru Karaka, and is a historic Pā site.



Locals may recognise the large pine and macrocarpa trees visible from the track, however, these trees are threatening the ancient karaka trees and archaeological sites which they share the site with.

“The pine and macrocarpa trees sit on sensitive archaeological sites and are showing significant signs of deterioration which, if left unattended, these trees could damage the site,” said Tauranga City Council Manager: s 7(2)(f)(ii).

Mauao Ranger s 6(c) - Maintenance of Law said that given the sensitive nature of the site the trees are sitting on, it's important that damage is kept to a minimum during the removal process.

To do this, the trees will be lifted out by helicopter. This means no wood will be cut down onto the site and the culturally significant karaka trees growing under the pine and macrocarpa trees, will be preserved.

This work has been prioritised in line with the 2018 Mauao Historic Reserve Management Plan, which specifies that exotic trees are to be progressively removed from Mauao given its status as a special ecological area.

Contractors will be working hard to make sure the much-loved maunga is open to host visitors over the long weekend.

In order for these works to take place and to maintain public safety, some closures will be needed.

- **Full closure of Mauao** - from 7am Tuesday, 31 May until 5pm Wednesday, 1 June 2022.
- **Pilot Bay boat ramp and car park closure** - Monday, 30 May until Wednesday, 8 June 2022 (may open earlier depending on progress of works).

Access to the maunga from Pilot Bay will be maintained from Thursday 2 to Wednesday 8 June 2022.

Notes to the Editor:

Mauao Historic Reserve is private land owned by the Mauao Trust, that is available and enjoyed by all as a public space. Ngā Poutiriao o Mauao is the joint management board for Mauao made up of representatives of the Mauao Trust and Tauranga City Council. The joint management of Mauao is guided by the 2018 Mauao Historic Reserve Management Plan, which was created through public consultation and through the aspirations of the Mauao Trust.

This work is carried out in partnership with Ngā Poutiriao o Mauao - the joint management board for Mauao made up of representatives of the Mauao Trust and Tauranga City Council